



SURRY COUNTY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Surry County
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www.surrycountyva.gov

Board of Supervisors 2015

Mrs. Judy S. Lyttle, Chairperson
(Bacon's Castle District)

Mr. John M. Seward, Vice-Chair
(Surry District)

Mr. Ernest L. Blount
(Dendron District)

Mr. Kenneth R. Holmes
(Carsley District)

Mr. Giron R. Wooden, Sr.
(Claremont District)

Meeting Schedule for 2015:

January 8, 2015
February 5, 2015
March 5, 2015
April 2, 2015
May 7, 2015
June 4, 2015
July 2, 2015
August 6, 2015
September 3, 2015
October 1, 2015
November 5, 2015
December 3, 2015

(additional meetings may be scheduled
as needed)

For more information about
Board of Supervisor meetings
or how to contact your representative, please visit our website at:
<http://www.surrycountyva.gov/departments/board-of-supervisors/>
Or call the County Administrative Office at (757) 294-5271.

Message from the County Administrator

If you are anything like me, than I am sure you can appreciate the idea of trying to close out projects, chores or assignments as the new year approaches.

In 2014 Surry County has successfully completed several initiatives that have either enhanced the County's programs, offerings or improved Surry's ability to effectively market itself to the outside world.



The Surry County Blackwater Regional Library has been a very positive addition to our community facilities for public use. It features expanded areas and meeting rooms for all age appropriate programming, extended library collections and increased the number of computers for high speed internet connectivity.



The Gray's Creek Boat Ramp Facility project offers, for the first time in our history, a County-owned waterfront access facility for the public to enjoy water related recreational activities.

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Meet our Staff: Surry County Animal Control



The **Surry County Animal Control Department** is responsible for the public safety and health of the County, as it pertains to the control of unsupervised domestic animals. Animal Control is also responsible for enforcing county and state animal control laws. Chief Animal Control Officer, Tracy Terry, and Animal Control Officer, Russell Savedge, directly assist citizens with domestic animals and livestock issues while also promoting the humane care and treatment of all animals.

The County operates a shelter located at 265 Old Burrough Road in the Town of Surry, which cares for and secures impounded stray animals. The shelter is open Monday through Friday from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Due to limited staffing, it is suggested that citizens call ahead before coming to the shelter (294-0158).

Animal Control Department staff operate under the direct supervision of the County Administrator, Mr. Tyrone W. Franklin.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mr. Adam W. Gross, a resident of Surry County and recent graduate of Surry County High School, Class of 2011, who successfully completed the 122nd Basic Trooper Session of the Virginia State Police Academy on November 21, 2014. Mr. Gross will be assigned to Sussex County.

Surry County - Follow us on facebook!

Surry County Government departments are now on facebook! This will give County Staff a new avenue to interact with residents and businesses in our community, as well as our tourism guests.

Interact with General Government and Tourism at: facebook.com/SurryCountyVA

with Parks and Recreation at: facebook.com/SurryParksAndRecreation

and with the Office on Youth at: facebook.com/SurryCountyYouth.

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Message from the Administrator (cont'd)

With the assistance of the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) Marketing Leverage Grant, Surry County and its tourism partners were able to develop a new brand identity that targets potential visitors' preferences and highlights attractions that will bring guests into our community.



So, what's coming in 2015?

The County will continue to focus its efforts and energy on the completion of the following Capital Improvement Projects:

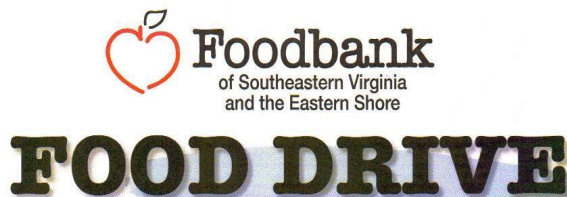
Visitor Center – this project will allow for a complete renovation of the original Circuit Court Clerk's Office, transforming this historic facility into a functional and modernized Visitor Center.

Surry County Rescue Squad Facility – This project involves the initial design and construction of a new rescue squad building.

Utilities Expansion and Upgrade – Utilities owned by the County and located throughout the community and in the incorporated towns are aging. Because of this, the County will initiate much needed sewer capacity expansion as well as upgrades associated with water delivery infrastructure.

Once completed, these projects will greatly enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Surry County, create a more inviting environment for visitors and stimulate potential business opportunities. With this in mind, I wish you all the very best in 2015!

Response to the Annual Food Drive



County Employees and guests contributed 108 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore following the Employee Christmas Social.

Administration would like to thank you all for your generous donations.

Surry Branch of the Blackwater Regional Library



The new Surry branch of the Blackwater Regional Library opened to the public on August 25, 2014 – exactly one year from the closing of the BB&T Bank at that location. In the interim the County was able to acquire, fully renovate and equip the building for use as a library.

Since its re-opening in August, Branch Manager, Faye Grandison, reports that the number of citizens making use of library services has more than doubled; perhaps due, in part, to increased hours of operation.

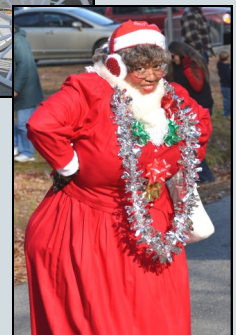
Additional square footage at the new location has enabled the library to increase its collection of books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs and music CDs by over 400 items; and more space is now available for library activities as well as public use for meetings.

Another exciting outcome of the renovation is the addition of a number of computers which has enabled patrons of all ages to access high-speed internet and the library's online catalog.

If you haven't had an opportunity to visit the new Surry branch of the Blackwater Regional Library, stop by today! The library is open Monday through Friday and from 9:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays.



The 2014 Christmas Parade took place on Saturday, November 29th.



Surry County Broadband Project Update

Surry County began to develop relationships in early 2005 with various funding agencies to include USDA, NTIA and the VDHCD to aid in implementing a broadband fiber network to support local businesses, community service facilities and residential constituents via wireless connectivity. County leaders realized that the community could not thrive without a reliable broadband presence given that many economic development interests consider fiber based infrastructure on par with electricity, gas, water and sewer when considering potential site selection opportunities.

After receipt of a Comprehensive Improvement Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the County partnered with Mid-Atlantic Broadband (MBC) for the installation of a municipal-owned fiber network. Surry County's relationship with Mid-Atlantic Broadband (MBC) has resulted in many reciprocal benefits, most significantly a cost savings accrued in the areas of project construction and fiber acquisition.

In November 2013, Surry County's fiber network was lit and now offers circuits to businesses that have greater reliability, increased bandwidth, and costs that are significantly lower than a T1 line. Surry County government operations and the Surry Library are now serviced by the network. The County's wireless network is forthcoming and anticipated to be online and offering services to residential subscribers in 2015. Progress is being made on the plan to construct a communications tower located in the Surry West Industrial Park along Route 10 West. Staff is certain that this deadline will be met due to the grant agreement deadline of May 2015 and our significant progress since relocating the tower facilitating the wireless part of the project from Old Burrough Road to Commerce Drive in the Surry West Industrial Park.

As part of this broadband expansion, two local businesses, S. Wallace Edwards and WindsorONE, partnered with Surry County to meet a prescribed goal to create 30 new jobs. Edwards, a consistent and staunch supporter of the project, has shared with staff their confidence in now being able to maintain their call center in Surry County due to the availability of broadband, greater bandwidth, and service reliability. Since broadband became available, WindsorONE has proposed and began the expansion of their Surry County physical plant site. Surry County with the support of its business partners is delighted that, to date, 150 jobs have been created as a result of this project!

Take the Road Less Travelled



Plan your visit to Surry County today at:

www.surrycountytourism.com

Surry County Administrative Office
45 School Street
P.O. Box 65
Surry, VA 23883

Calendar of Events

January 1 - New Year's Day *

January 16 - Lee-Jackson Day *

January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day *

February 2 - Groundhog Day

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 16 - President's Day *

March 8 - Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 11 - Surry Nuclear Siren Test

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - First Day of Spring

March 29 - Palm Sunday

* County Offices Closed

Submissions

If you wish to submit news
or corrections,
please provide the information
to the Surry County
Administrative Office
by calling 294-5271.

